

## Message Text

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15

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INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 EB-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 COME-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USINT DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 055566

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, YO

SUBJ: UNDER SECRETARY SISCO'S CONVERSATION WITH YUGOSLAV

AMBASSADOR MARCH 15

SUMMARY: YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR GRANFIL CALLED ON UNDER

SECRETARY SISCO MARCH 15 FOR A REVIEW OF US-YUGOSLAV

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RELATIONS AND BRIEFING ON MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS. UNDER

SECRETARY SISCO INDICATED THAT US HAD TAKEN NOTE OF GRANFIL'S FEBRUARY REMARKS ON RETURN FROM CONSULTATIONS AND OBSERVED THAT SOME OF THE PROBLEMS IN US-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS OF RECENT MONTHS APPEARED TO BE DIMINISHING. HE EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF AND LONG-TERM MUTUAL INTEREST OF BOTH SIDES IN CONTINUED UNDERSTANDING BUT OBSERVED THAT BILATERAL RELATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES CANNOT BE COMPARTMENTALIZED. ON MIDDLE EAST, SISCO EMPHASIZED THAT SYRIAN-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS WERE MORE DIFFICULT THAN ISRAELI-UAR NEGOTIATIONS SINCE THE AREA IS MORE CONFINED AND SYRIANS FACED WITH BOTH INTERNAL AND FOREIGN PRESSURES GIVING THEM LESS LATITUDE THAN UAR. HE STRESSED THAT WASHINGTON LOCUS FOR DISENGAGEMENT TALKS FIRST WITH ISRAELIS AND THEN, IN EARLY APRIL, WITH SYRIANS WAS RESULT OF DESIRE OF THE TWO SIDES AND FACT THAT US WAS IN POSITION TO COMMUNICATE WITH BOTH. THERE WAS NO DELIBERATE US DESIRE TO EXCLUDE SOVIETS AND THE SECRETARY WOULD, IN INTERESTS OF BROADER US-SOVIET RELATIONS, KEEP THEM INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS. WITH RESPECT TO SPECIAL UNGA, SISCO OBSERVED THAT AGENDA WHICH DEVELOPING LOOKED SOMEWHAT LIKE AN UNCTAD AGENDA AND THAT US

WAS DOUBTFUL WHETHER PRACTICAL ACHIEVEMENTS COULD BE REGISTERED ON SUCH A LARGE SET OF ISSUES IN FORUM OF 135 STATES. END SUMMARY.

1. GRANFIL, AFTER CONGRATULATING THE UNDER SECRETARY ON HIS NEW AND BROADER RESPONSIBILITIES, OPENED DISCUSSION WITH REFERENCE TO BILATERAL RELATIONS AND NOTED AT OUTSET CONCERNS WHICH HAD BEEN CAUSED BY RECENT GAO RULING ON EXIM CREDITS. GRANFIL ADDED THAT SINCE PUBLICATION OF THIS RULING, COMMENTS BY SAUER AND CASEY OF EXIM AND SECRETARIES DENT AND SHULTZ TO THE EFFECT THAT QUESTION WAS NOT ONE OF DISCONTINUING EXIM ACTIVITY BUT OF US PROCEDURES HAD REASSURED HIM SOMEWHAT. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT DOCUMENT FOR FINAL EXIM CREDIT ON YUGOSLAV PURCHASE OF BOEING AIRCRAFT HAD TO BE SIGNED ON MARCH 15 BY YUGOSLAV SIDE ALONE WITH EXIM TO SIGN IT AT LATER DATE WHEN PROCEDURES ARE CLARIFIED. HE CONCLUDED THAT HE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO HEARING ABOUT US SOLUTIONS FOR EXIM PROCEDURAL PROBLEM.

2. RETURNING TO BROADER US-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS, GRANFIL  
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SOUGHT THE UNDER SECRETARY'S VIEWS. SISCO RESPONDED THAT THERE HAD BEEN A DIFFICULT TIME LAST YEAR, BUT THAT THE US HAD TAKEN CAREFUL NOTE OF WHAT GRANFIL HAD SAID ON HIS RETURN FROM CONSULTATIONS AND NOW BELIEVED THAT SOME OF THE PROBLEMS WERE DIMINISHING. HE STRESSED THAT THERE WAS EVERY REASON FOR THE US AND YUGOSLAVIA TO UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER EVEN THOUGH BOTH RECOGNIZED THAT THERE WOULD BE DIFFERENCES OF VIEW. HE COMMENTED THAT US, LIKE YUGO-

SLAVIA, DOES NOT WISH ANY CONFRONTATIONS. GRANFIL INTERJECTED THAT HE WAS NOT AFRAID OF DIFFERENCES OF VIEW. THE QUESTION WAS HOW TO HANDLE THEM. HE STRESSED THAT YUGOSLAVIA FAVORED MORE DIALOGUE AND MORE CONTACTS, BUT THAT ON AMERICAN SIDE THERE HAD BEEN A RECENT TENDENCY TO AVOID THESE. HE EMPHASIZED THAT IT IS IN MUTUAL INTEREST OF BOTH SIDES TO MAINTAIN THEM. SISCO SAID THE US WAS INTERESTED IN IMPROVING BILATERAL RELATIONS; HOWEVER, THESE CANNOT BE SEEN AS UNRELATED TO INTERNATIONAL ISSUES. THE QUESTION WAS NOT THAT YUGOSLAVIA MUST AGREE WITH US. THE POINT IS THAT, IN VIEW OF DEMOCRATIC US SOCIETY, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO COMPARTMENTALIZE RELATIONS AND TO PROCEED ONLY IN ONE AREA IF YUGOSLAV POSTURES ON OTHER ISSUES APPEAR TO US PUBLIC OPINION TO RAISE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP. GRANFIL EMPHASIZED THAT YUGOSLAVIA'S POSTURE ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES IS MOTIVATED BY "OUR OWN ASSESSMENTS." IT WAS NOT TRUE THAT YUGOSLAVIA WAS INFLUENCED BY THIS OR THAT COUNTRY. HE WAS GLAD THAT AT LEAST THIS WAS BEING BETTER UNDERSTOOD.

3. GRANFIL THEN TURNED TO MIDDLE EAST REFERRING TO HELPFUL BRIEFINGS HE HAD RECEIVED IN THE PAST FROM SISCO. THE UNDER SECRETARY STATED THAT THE RECENT TRIP HAD BEEN

UNDERTAKEN BECAUSE FOUR ARAB CHIEFS OF STATE HAD SENT FOREIGN MINISTERS FAHMI OF THE UAR AND SAQQAF OF SAUDI ARABIA TO WASHINGTON TO URGE PROGRESS IN DISENGAGEMENT OF SYRIAN AND ISRAELI FORCES AND A TRIP BY THE SECRETARY TO THE AREA FOR THIS PURPOSE. IN SPITE OF OUR ASSESSMENT THAT SYRIAN AND ISRAELI POSITIONS WERE NOT YET RIPE FOR NEGOTIATIONS, THE SECRETARY UNDERTOOK THE EFFORT. SISCO STATED THAT THE PRESENT SITUATION WAS THAT ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER EBAN WAS COMING MARCH 15 AND THAT AN ADDITIONAL HIGH LEVEL ISRAELI REPRESENTATIVE WOULD ARRIVE AT LATER

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DATE TO DISCUSS THE DETAILS OF SYRIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT. HE ADDED THAT SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASAD HAD CONSENTED TO SEND A TRUSTED REPRESENTATIVE SUBSEQUENTLY.

4. UNDER SECRETARY SISCO THEN MADE THE FOLLOWING ASSESSMENT OF SYRIAN-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS: 1) THEY ARE MORE DIFFICULT THAN THE UAR-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS; 2) THE AREA OF ENGAGEMENT IS MORE CONFINED. HE ADDED THAT OWING TO ITS POST-WAR TRAUMA, ISRAEL HAD DIFFICULTY IN PUTTING TOGETHER A NEW GOVERNMENT. NEVERTHELESS, HE BELIEVED THERE WAS A CONSENSUS IN ISRAEL TO WORK OUT THE DISENGAGEMENT PROBLEM. HOWEVER, THE ABOVE FACTORS SUGGESTED THAT, DESPITE US COMMITMENT TO CONTINUE ITS EFFORT, PROGRESS WOULD BE ACHIEVED AT A MORE DELIBERATE PACE THAN IN THE UAR-ISRAELI CASE. GRANFIL EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN

OVER THE RECENT GOLD MEIR STATEMENT (TO THE EFFECT THAT  
ISRAEL WOULD NOT RETURN TO ITS 1967 BORDERS) STATING IT  
WOULD PUT MORE FUEL ON THE FIRE ON THE EVE OF NEGOTIATIONS  
AND THAT YUGOSLAVIA WAS ANXIOUS TO SEE FIRES NEAR ITS  
REGION DAMPENED DOWN. THE UNDER SECRETARY ADVISED GRANFIL  
NOT TO OVER-EMPHASIZE THIS  
E E E E E E E

## Message Attributes

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**Draft Date:** 20 MAR 1974  
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